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For Immediate Release Sen. Virg Bernero Sen. Gilda Jacobs Rep. Paul Condino March 30, 2005 517/373-1734 517/373-7888 517/373-1788

Democrats to Take Jobs Fight Directly to the People

Town Halls will focus on Governor Granholm's Jobs Agenda

LANSING- Democrats in the Michigan Senate and House announced a series of town hall meetings today designed to build public support for Governor Granholm's economic stimulus proposals. The Democrats called upon majority Republicans to move quickly on the Governor's unprecedented proposal to create 72,000 new jobs and establish Michigan as a global center of research in new technology and emerging industries.

"Our governor is absolutely committed to protecting Michigan's economy by preserving today's jobs and creating new ones for tomorrow," said Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods). "This is a practical, dynamic plan that puts Michigan to work. That's the bottom line."

The Governor's 'Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow' proposal calls for using a \$2 billion investment over the next decade to grow Michigan's economy by increasing the amount of innovation and commercialization in our universities, corporations, and non-profit research institutions. The Governor is also promoting the 'Michigan Jobs and Investment Act' which seeks to create new jobs with comprehensive reforms to the state's Single Business Tax code.

"The Governor's proposed reforms will help strengthen Michigan's business climate and reduce the flow of jobs to other states," Sen. Virg Bernero (D-Lansing) said. "That's why they are supported by business and labor alike. This is definitely a win-win for everyone."

Scheduled town halls include:

April 19 in Lansing April 21 in Grand Rapids April 25 in Monroe April 25 in Waterford April 28 in Bedford
May 2 in Saginaw
May 4 in Jackson
May 5 in Ann Arbor
May 5 in Livonia
May 6 in Woodhaven
May 9 in Dearborn
June 3 in Sterling Heights
June 6 in Muskegon
June 13 in Alma
June 17 in Midland
June 20 in Escanaba
June 27 in Port Huron

Event sponsors in the Senate and House will be releasing more detailed information on town hall times and locations.

Rep. Paul Candino, who spoke on behalf of the Michigan House Democrats at today's announcement, called for immediate action by the majority Republicans.

"I invite Republicans to join Democrats, the Michigan Manufacturing Association and the Small Business Association in turning Michigan into an economic powerhouse, but we've got to get moving," said Rep. Condino (D-Southfield) a lead sponsor of Granholm's 'Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow' legislation in the House. "Protecting the status quo means we get left behind. The time for action is now."

"This plan provides much-needed tax relief for small business and tax equity for those making higher profits," Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) said. "The result will be protecting the jobs we have while encouraging job growth in new and exciting fields. That's a giant step forward toward Michigan's future success."

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